

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2000/09/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100200025-9

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET//~~REF ID: A6286025~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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740108

(LTC M  
005)

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11	
3	6	9	12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR [REDACTED] 25X1A

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: UN-5

DATE: 4 JAN 74

SUBJECT: SCUDS IN SYRIA AND SYRIAN BATTLE PLANS

REF

25X1A

25X1X

25X1X

[REDACTED] THAT THE USSR HAD DELIVERED

THREE BATTALIONS OF SCUD SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES TO SYRIA AS OF LATE DECEMBER. THE SOVIETS [REDACTED] ARE 25X1X TRAINING FORMER SYRIAN ARTILLERY PERSONNEL TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE MISSILE SYSTEM. NONE OF THE WEAPONS HAVE YET BEEN DEPLOYED. THREE SCUD BATTALIONS COULD AMOUNT TO AS MANY AS 12 LAUNCHERS. THERE IS NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CORROBORATE THIS REPORT, BUT THE PRESENCE OF SCUDS IN EGYPT MAKES IT LIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ALSO SENT THE SYSTEM TO SYRIA.

[REDACTED] DAMASCUS HAS DECIDED THAT IF

1

DATE:

25X1X

ORIG:

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HOSTILITIES ARE RESUMED. SYRIAN MILITARY OBJECTIVES WILL BE LIMITED. THE SYRIANS WILL MASS SUFFICIENT FORCES TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN SEIZING AND OCCUPYING SPECIFIC, LIMITED OBJECTIVES. THE BATTLE PLANS REPORTEDLY CALL FOR THE USE OF HEAVY AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES IN SUPPORT OF LIMITED ARMORED AND HELIBORNE OPERATIONS.

SYRIA HAS REBUILT ITS AIR AND GROUND FORCES TO THE POINT THAT THEIR WEAPONS INVENTORIES APPROXIMATE PRE-WAR LEVELS. ALTHOUGH MANY OF SYRIA'S MILITARY PERSONNEL REPLACEMENTS ARE UNDERTRAINED, DAMASCUS COULD LAUNCH LIMITED OFFENSIVES, AS REPORTEDLY PLANNED, AND INFILCT CASUALTIES ON THE ISRAELIS--A FACT RECOGNIZED BY TEL AVIV.

A LIMITED RESUMPTION OF THE FIGHTING, MOREOVER, WOULD SEEM TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT BETTER AT PRESENT THAN A GENERAL RENEGAL OF HOSTILITIES. IT WOULD REDUCE AT LEAST SOME OF THE PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT ASAD FROM THE SYRIAN MILITARY TO RENEW THE WAR ON A LARGER SCALE. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELIS TO CONCLUDE THE DISENGAGEMENT.

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TALK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE RATHER THAN RISK A GENERAL ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING ON BOTH FRONTS. AND IT WOULD SERVE AS A REMINDER TO BOTH SIDES AT GENEVA THAT ALTHOUGH SYRIA WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE, ITS VITAL INTERESTS COULD NOT BE IGNORED THERE. NEVERTHELESS, ANY RESUMPTION OF THE FIGHTING EVEN ON THE LIMITED SCALE ENVISAGED BY DAMASCUS WOULD SERIOUSLY RISK A MAJOR ISRAELI RETALIATORY RESPONSE. E-2 IMPDET-H

ESPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV AND AIO

25X1A

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DATE: 8 JAN 74  
 ORIG: WHSS 25X1A  
 UNIT: CTA OPERATIONS CTR  
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USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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